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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

1309 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6157  
(202) 225-2061  
<https://cha.house.gov>

RODNEY DAVIS, ILLINOIS  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

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ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

JEN DAULBY, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

September 22, 2020

The Honorable Kathy Boockvar  
Secretary of the Commonwealth  
302 North Office Building  
401 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Jonathan M. Marks  
Deputy Secretary for Elections  
and Commissions  
Bureau of Commissions, Elections  
and Legislation  
210 North Office Building  
401 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Secretary Boockvar and Mr. Marks:

As Ranking Member of the Committee on House Administration in the U.S. House of Representatives, which has broad jurisdiction over election issues, I write to you because of the election security and administration issues that were brought to light in the August 29, 2020, *New York Post* article, *Confessions of a voter fraud: I was a master at fixing mail-in ballots*.<sup>1</sup> The article outlines the relative ease in which vote-by-mail is weaponized to disenfranchise Pennsylvanians and benefit political actors. The allegations brought to light in the *New York Post* article have me gravely concerned. Included in this letter are references to the issues discussed in the article as well as oversight questions aimed at reassuring me, and the voters of Pennsylvania, that steps are taken to address these election security concerns.

a. *Failure to identify co-conspiring USPS employees:* The whistleblower quoted by the *New York Post* also indicated that some USPS employees are “in on the scam”: “You have a postman who is a rabid anti-Trump guy and he’s working in . . . some Republican stronghold . . . He can take those [filled-out] ballots, and knowing 95% are going to a Republican, he can just throw those in the garbage.”

1. What current efforts are made by your office to work with USPS and the Postal Inspection Service to recognize potential election crimes and other irregularities and to identify those involved?
2. What reforms will your office enact to this process, in order to ensure this whistleblower’s concerns are taken seriously?

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<sup>1</sup> Jon Levine, *Confessions of a voter fraud: I was a master at fixing mail-in ballots*, N.Y. Post, Aug. 2020, <https://nypost.com/2020/08/29/political-insider-explains-voter-fraud-with-mail-in-ballots/>.

3. How does your office investigate and/or track ballots that may have been discarded?
- b. *Failure to prevent voter coercion at nursing homes:* The whistleblower also indicated that significant voter coercion occurs at nursing homes, where political operatives will “assist” elderly voters in filling out their ballots. This is extremely concerning given Pennsylvania has the fourth highest number of nursing facility residents in the country.<sup>2</sup>
1. What is the current practice of sending Pennsylvania election officials to observe and adjudicate nursing home voting?
  2. Has your office ever been referred or investigated allegations of nursing home voter fraud?
  3. What steps will your office take to ensure that elderly Pennsylvanians are not disenfranchised?
- c. *Failure to identify voter impersonation:* Finally, the whistleblower indicated that when all else failed, he would send operatives to vote in person in place of actual registered voters who routinely skip presidential or municipal elections.
1. The whistleblower admits to directing persons to impersonate voters by recreating the signature that already appears in the voter registration database. How does your office prevent, identify, and remediate this type of in-person voter impersonation?
  2. Upon discovering in-person voter fraud, does your office notify the affected registered voters that they have been the victim of an election crime?
  3. What efforts does Pennsylvania take to maintain the accuracy of its voter rolls? In your answer, please explain how the registrations of ineligible registrants (*i.e.*, those who have moved out of state, etc.) and deceased voters are identified and removed.
  4. Assuming Pennsylvania performs some list maintenance, how often are these maintenance tasks performed and how frequently do county election officials receive updates?
  5. How does Pennsylvania prevent the successful impersonation of deceased voters, both in person and by mail?

The claims made by the whistleblower are simply unacceptable. It is critical that the American people have confidence in their elections. It is my hope that these oversight questions

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<sup>2</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation, *Total Number of Residents in Certified Nursing Facilities*, 2019, <https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/number-of-nursing-facility-residents/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Number%20of%20Nursing%20Facility%20Residents%22,%22sort%22:%22desc%22%7D>.

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Page 3 of 3

will begin to restore that confidence. We must all work to ensure that every qualified voter who wants to vote has the opportunity to do so and that every lawful vote is counted.

Please submit answers to these questions to my office by October 7, 2020. If you have any questions, please contact my staff at the Committee on House Administration and ask for Caleb Hays, Chief Legal Counsel for Elections, at (202) 225-8281.

Sincerely,



Rodney Davis  
Ranking Member

CC: David Voyer, Division Manager, Allegheny County Division of Elections  
Lisa M. Deeley, City Commissioner, Philadelphia  
Al Schmidt, City Commissioner, Philadelphia  
Omar Sabir, City Commissioner, Philadelphia  
Robert J. Harvie, Chairman, Board of Elections, Bucks County  
Bill Turner, Acting Director of Voter Services/Elections, Chester County  
Laureen T. Hagan, Chief Clerk, Delaware County  
Lee Soltysiak, Chief Clerk/Chief Operating Officer, Montgomery County